Rounds rescinds Liddy proclamation

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Mike Rounds said a proclamation declaring Thursday as G. Gordon Liddy Day in South Dakota was issued in error.

State Democratic Party Chairwoman Judy Olson asked Rounds, a Republican, to apologize for the proclamation because of statements Liddy made in 1994 on how to shoot at federal agents.

Rounds issued the proclamation to mark Liddy's visit to the Black Hills for the annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally.

"We have literally issued hundreds of ceremonial proclamations since I took office in January. This particular request was sent in by a South Dakota citizen, and because of the short turnaround time required, I did not have an opportunity to review the proposed proclamation," Rounds said.

In a statement, the governor said he usually signs every document himself that leaves his office.

"That didn't happen in this case, and we are reviewing our process to ensure that it won't happen in the future," he said.

Liddy drove a motorcycle from Washington, D.C., to Sturgis and was scheduled to appear at several events and to broadcast his radio program live from Belle Fourche.

In 1994, Liddy suggested "head shots" to respond to an encounter with agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, because "they've got a vest underneath.".

Olson said that while the statement from Liddy is 9 years old, it remains an inappropriate, unethical and irresponsible statement for any American to make.

"I'm willing to give Governor Rounds the benefit of the doubt and assume he was unaware of Mr. Liddy's famous and very public instructions to shoot and kill federal law enforcement officers," Olson said.